ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY,

EASTERN CIRCLE,

FOR

1905-1906.

Calcutta:
THE BENGAL SECRETARIAT PRESS.
1907.

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on 24 February, 2020

No. 151.

FROM DR. T. BLOCH,

Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Eastern Circle,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,

General Department.

Calcutta, the 7th November 1906.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1905-1906.

2. I regret the delay in submitting it, which is due partly to the late receipt of certain information required for incorporation into it, partly to my illness which laid me up in hospital since the end of August and which has obliged me to take sick leave since then.

3. I regret that I am unable at present to supply you with copies of the photographs taken by my office in 1905-1906, a list of which is given, Part I, Appendix B. The time of my photographers since their return from camp in April last has been entirely taken up in printing two sets of prints from all the negatives taken by my office since 1903, and, as I need scarcely remark, the period from the end of June to the end of October with its many dark and cloudy days is most unsuitable for work of such a kind in Calcutta. Those two sets of prints were required by the office of the Director-General of Archæology in accordance with instructions from the Government of India.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

T. BLOCH,

Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Eastern Circle.

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PART I.

GENERAL REMARKS.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY, EASTERN CIRCLE.

FOR 1905-1906.

PART I.

GENERAL REMARKS.

1. *Administrative changes.*—The formation of the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam and the changes in some of the western parts of Chota Nagpur and Orissa did not affect my department in any considerable way, as Assam already had been included in my circle, while the Central Provinces, to which most of the Tributary States of Orissa and Chota Nagpur now belong, had just been added. With regard to the territorial re-arrangements between Bengal and the new Eastern Province, the most important one from an Archæological point of view is the separation of the district of Malda from Bengal and its transfer to Eastern Bengal and Assam. This district contains the famous ruins of Gaur and Panduah, perhaps the only important ancient buildings in Bengal proper, which, it is to be hoped, will receive the same careful attention under the new administration as they used to do under the Bengal Government.

2. *Conservation.*—Statements of the expenditure under this head are contained in Appendix A. No new works have been added to the already long lists of outstanding items, which are only waiting for funds to be taken up. A small number of new buildings, which it had been suggested Government should repair, have been inspected, but no subvention from Government could be recommended, generally on the ground that the owners were quite capable of having those repairs done at their own cost. It has certainly been one of the effects of the stir, which Lord Curzon's administration gave to the conservation of ancient monuments, that here in Bengal every owner of a temple or mosque of some age believes himself to have a claim upon public funds for its restoration, although the decay of such a building may be due to nothing but want of proper attention on his own or his ancestor's part. And it cannot be surprising to find that here in the East the idea of self-help never seems to occur in such cases. Only in one instance, in regard to restoring a mosque at Mullick Bagh near Kanchrapara station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, the petitioners stated that they were able to raise Rs. 1,500 by local subscription. This sum evidently has been '*promised*' only, but if it ever can be realised, it will go a long way towards repairing the mosque and no Government aid will be wanted.

The most important conservation work in Bengal is that of the Black Pagoda in Konarak. It is gratifying to find here at least slow but steady progress. While I was in Khandagiri making a survey of the caves, I got one of the minor caves cleared of silt, by which it used to be filled up annually during the rains, and I also made provision to protect it against a future recurrence of this. The excavations at Rajgir brought to light an old circular temple with interesting stucco figures around its base, which it was essential to protect at once, as the rains probably would have washed them away altogether. The cost of doing this has been paid out of the funds available for excavations at Rajgir. I regret that owing to illness I have not been able to inspect the work after its completion, as I intended to do.

3. *Exploration.*—By far the larger part of the time spent by me on tour was devoted to exploration. I was 76 days in Rajgir, from the end of January to about the middle of April. Mr. J. H. Marshall, the Director-General of Archæology, was at Rajgir up to the beginning of March, when

I was left in sole charge of the work. For the purpose of preparing an accurate topographical survey of the hills around Rajgir, which was essential in order to settle many doutful points connected with the topography of this important ancient place, the services of Mr. J. Wilson, a retired officer of the Survey of India, were made available. All detail plane-table surveys of this area were done by my photographer, Babu Nundo Lall Mitter, assisted by Babu Sohan Lall, of Mr. Marshall's staff.

Before going to Rajgir, I spent about one week at Khandagiri in order to prepare a detailed survey of the caves on this hill, which I hope to make use of for publication later on. Photographs also have been taken of all the interesting carvings on those caves for the same purpose. I also made use of my stay at Khandagiri for an inspection of the repairs to the Asoka inscription at Dhauli, which is a little over 10 miles distant to the east, and could easily be visited in one day.

4. *Inscriptions.*—My object in visiting Khandagiri also was to get good paper impressions made of the important inscription of Kharavela of the year 165 B. C., which still requires to be re-edited. I brought back with me two impressions, with the help of which I hope it will be possible to settle all doubtful points. The Indian Museum has got a plaster cast of this inscription, which was made about ten years ago, but the single pieces making up this cast are very unhandy for a careful examination.

While at Rajgir, I took copies of the short inscription on the Sonbhandar cave, which proves that the cave was made in the 2nd or 3rd century A. D. by a Jain for members of his order, a point that is of some importance in connection with the topography of old Rajgir. Otherwise the excavations at Rajgir have been sadly unproductive in regard to epigraphical finds.

5. *Departmental Notes.*—I was away in Europe on six months' combined leave from the 30th May, 1905, when Mr. D. R. Bhandarkar, Assistant Superintendent of the Western Circle, acted for me. Besides carrying on the ordinary current office work, Mr. Bhandarkar visited some ancient remains in the districts of Barisal and Sambalpur. His notes on those places will be found in Part II. My draftsman, Babu Hari Dass Dutta, also took three months' leave during my absence. No other vacancies occurred during the year. It gives me much pleasure to record my appreciation of the good work done by the staff of my office. Babu Nanda Lall Mitter, besides being a very neat photographer, has also made himself useful whenever any plane-table survey work was required, for which he is well-trained and which he does with great care and exactness. Babu Hari Dass Dutta, whose good work as a draftsman and photographer has already on previous occasions been duly acknowledged, has done excellent service during the excavations at Rajgir in surpervising the workmen. He takes a very intelligent interest in a work of this kind, and has now acquired considerable experience in this line. Babu Krishna Chandra Mozumdar has been left in sole charge of my office during my absence on tour and has again given me great satisfaction by the conscientious way in which he discharged his duties. The services rendered by Babu Sreegopal Bose, a sub-overseer of the Department of Public Works in charge of Budh Gaya, also deserve to be acknowledged here. He was deputed as a supervisor of the excavations at Rajgir, a work for which he was specially qualified on account of the keen interest which he takes in the antiquities of this country. When I left camp in the beginning of April, I put him in charge of the conservation of the old brick temple, which had been excavated in the centre of old Rajgir, and about which further details will be found in Part II.

The expenditure incurred during the year was as follows:—

	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Superintendent's pay	6,000	0	0			
Salary of non-gazetted establishment—						
1 Clerk	600	0	0			
1 Photographer	960	0	0			
1 Draftsman	840	0	0			
2 Peons	192	0	0			
Temporary establishment	96	0	0			
				8,688	0	0

	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Allowances—						
Travelling allowances	1,887	8	6			
				1,887	8	6
Supplies and Services—						
Photographic charges	400	0	0			
Contingencies—						
Hot and cold weather charges ...	45	13	0			
Postage charges	60	0	0			
Telegram charges	24	0	0			
Conveyance of stores, tents and records ...	400	0	0			
Miscellaneous	107	0	0			
				1,036	13	0
GRAND TOTAL				11,612	5	6

6. *Tours.*—The following is a statement showing the amount of time spent on tours and the object for which they have been undertaken:—

Tours by Mr. D. R. Bhandarkar.—

1905		Days.
August 29th to September 6th.	Inspection of mosque at Kasba and Bibichini in Barisal	9
November 15th to 28th ...	Inspection of the temple of Narasinhanath in Sambalpur district	14
	Total ...	23

Tours by Dr. T. Bloch—

1905		Days.
December 12th	Inspection of mosque at Mullick Bagh, district Nadia	1
December 15th to 21st ...	Inspection of tomb of Bahram Sakka at Burdwan, of temple at Sainthia, district Birbhum, and of railing pillars at Budh Gaya	7
1906		
January 5th to 20th ...	Survey of Khandagiri Caves, and inspection of repairs to Asoka inscription at Dhauli and to Black Pagoda at Konarak, district Puri ...	16
January 23rd to 26th ...	Inspection of railing pillars at Budh Gaya	4
January 27th to April 12th ...	Excavations at Rajgir	76
April 26th to 27th ...	Inspection of old guns at Berhampore and of temples at Jeagunge, district Murshidabad	2
May 2nd and 3rd ...	Inspection of mosque at Rasulpore, district Burdwan	2
	Total ...	108

This statement includes a short journey of three and a half days from camp at Rajgir to Calcutta and back, which I undertook on urgent private affairs in the beginning of March. It does not show a journey to Memari Station, East Indian Railway, on the 28th April. I went there with the object of visiting Rasulpore, but on arrival found that this could not be effected in one day, as I had contemplated. Not being provided for a halt at night at Rasulpore, I had accordingly to postpone my visit and to return to Calcutta.

7. *Tour programme for 1906-1907.*—It was my intention to arrange for a prolonged tour in the Central Provinces in the winter 1906-07, in order to make myself acquainted with the antiquities of this province, which has been recently added to my charge. I also wanted to accompany Mr. Longhurst, the

newly appointed Architectural Superintendent of my circle, to the principal places, where restoration work has been done or is still in progress. Unfortunately, my illness, which has obliged me to take furlough for Europe, prevents me from carrying out any of those plans, and the programme for the next cold weather thus will depend upon the arrangements that will be made during my absence. If exploration work of some kind should be found desirable, I would strongly recommend an excavation of the ruins at Naltigiri and Udayagiri in the district of Cuttack, where some interesting Buddhist remains exist, which, I think, could be excavated at a small cost, say about Rs. 500. But some part of December or January should be selected for this work, as the climate probably will be found too trying for prolonged out-door work after the middle of February.

T. BLOCH,

Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Eastern Circle.

APPENDIX A.

Statement of expenditure on Conservation Work in Bengal 1905-1906.

District.	Locality.	Name of Building.	Amount sanctioned	Amount spent in 1905-1906.	Whether completed or in progress.
1	2	3	4	5	6
			Rs.	Rs.	
Calcutta ...	Calcutta ...	Maintaining tablets and lines of demarcation in connection with the old Fort William.	155	153	Completed.
Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Placing a tablet to mark the residence of Sir Robert Chambers on the gateway of Cossipur house.	185	198	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Necessary repairs to Holwell's monument ...	209	74	Ditto.
Darjeeling ...	Darjeeling ...	Repairs to tomb of General Lloyd and Czoma-de Koros in the Cemetery.	15	14	Ditto.
Champaran ...	Rampurwa ...	Taking borings round the stump of the second Asoka pillar.	100	1	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Near Gobind-gunge.	Repairs to two Asoka Pillars	45	45	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Lauria ...	Repairs to Asoka Pillar	44	40	Ditto.
Puri ...	Konarak ...	Preservation of Jagamohan temple of Black Pagoda.	33,075	1,079	In progress.
Do. ...	Ditto ...	Additional works in the Black Pagoda ...	9,937	5,235	Ditto.
Do. ...	Ditto ...	Constructing an Inspection Bungalow ...	7,360	2,959	Completed
Do. ...	Bhubanesvar ...	Repairs to temples	104	87	Ditto.
Do. ...	Ditto ...	Repairs to certain temples	1,830	1,173	Ditto.
Do. ...	Ditto ...	Minor repairs	18	17	Ditto.
Cuttack ...	Jajpur ...	Exterminating jungle in ancient monuments ...	37	26	In progress.
Puri ...	Dhauli Hill ...	Constructing a stone shed over the Asoka inscription over the Dhauli Hill.	132	138	Completed.
Do. ...	Khurda and Garjang.	Repairs to monuments	54	37	Ditto.
Balasore ...	Balasore ...	Repairs to Dutch tombs	40	33	Ditto.
Hooghly ...	Serampore ...	Repairs to St. Martin's Pagoda	50	50	Ditto.
Nadia ...	Plassey ...	Removing the Plassey monument to site of battle-field, erecting an Inspection Bungalow with outhouses and providing pillars to mark the position of the contending armies.	16,052	10,020	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Repairs to Plassey monuments	3,080	1	In progress.
Murshidabad ...	Kheraul ...	Repairs to the mosque	486	478	Completed.
Gaya ...	Ghenjan ...	Restoring statue of Budha and constructing a shed for it.	197	187	Ditto.
Patna ...	Monair ...	Repairs to Mukdum Shah's tomb	207	124	Ditto.
Gaya ...	Gaya ...	Repairs to buildings at Budh Gaya	367	349	Ditto.
Do. ...	Shamshernagar	Repairs to tomb	160	147	Ditto.
Do. ...	Ditto ...	Repairs to tall stone shaft	10	11	Ditto.
Khulna ...	Bagirhat ...	Repairs to Satgumbaz and tomb of Khan Jehan Ali.	400	393	Ditto.
Shahabad ...	Rhotas ...	Survey Work of the Rhotas Palace	6	4	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Repairs to Rhotas Palace	597	661	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Sasaram ...	Repairs to Sher Shah's tomb	80	115	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Repairs to Hasan Khan's tomb	65	41	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Arrah ...	Repairs to soldiers' tombs	4	4	Ditto.
Shahabad ...	Champaran ...	Repairs to Bakhtiar Khan's tomb	5,072	470	In progress.
Ditto ...	Shergarh ...	Repairs to Fortress	250	44	Ditto.
Maldah ...	Ferozepore ...	Special repairs to Sona Masjid	26,057	7,165*	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Pandua ...	Special repairs to Adina mosque	25,974	14*	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Maldah ...	Clearing jungle of the ruins of Pandua and Gaur.	168	69*	
		Grand Total ...	1,32,552	31,656	

* Expenditure up to September 1903.

Statement of Expenditure on Conservation work in Eastern Bengal and Assam, 1905-1906.

Name of work.	Sanctioned amount.	Actual expenditure.	Works done.
Naga Hills Division.			
Imperial Civil Repairs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	
(1) A. R. Quinton, Memorial, Manipur	20	20 0 0	Ordinary repairs and maintenance.
Provincial, Original Works.			
(1) Restoring the Monolithic columns at Dinapur (District Naga Hills).	6,677	3,288 4 0	Most of the Monoliths straightened and concreted. The work is nearly completed and the very little remaining to be done will be completed by the end of May 1906.
(2) Erecting monuments over the graves of officers buried at various places in the Naga Hills Division.	627	487 0 6	Tomb-stones, etc. have been brought to the site. The work will be completed during the current year.
(3) Clearing undergrowth over the area of citadel at Dinapur and cement pointing the remains of its old walls and gates (Naga Hills Division.)	3,845	1,696 7 2	An area of jungle to an extent of 660,000 s. ft., has been cleared and 3,657 s. ft., cement pointing done to the walls and gates and the rest will be done in the current year.
(4) Annual repairs to monument memorials to Dr. Brown, Mr. Heath and Captain Gordon at Manipur.	20	19 7 6	Ordinary repairs and maintenance.
(5) Annual repairs to ruins at Dimapur (District Naga Hills)	380	375 7 5	
(6) Annual repairs to graves of Messrs. Melvelle and O'Brien at Mayangkhong (District Manipur).	20	16 14 9	
(7) Annual repairs to Durbar Hall, Coronation-room, Nautchghar and citadel wall, Jubaraj's temple at Manipur.	500	496 14 0	
(8) Special repairs to Durbar Hall, Coronation-room, Nautchghar and citadel wall, Jubaraj's temple at Manipur.	1,657	1,607 13 9	
(9) Annual repairs to memorial of Mr. Damont and Major Cock at Khunama and Lt. Forbes at Sachima (District Naga Hills).	90	(*a*) 30 0 0	(*a*) New tomb-stones being sanctioned further expenditure on repairs was unnecessary.
Lower Assam Division.			
(10) Ruins of temple at Bamani Hill, Tezpur. Annual clearance of jungle (District Darrang).	40	40 0 0	Completed.
(11) Repairs to ancient tombs at Jagighopa	23	23 0 0	
(12) Annual repairs to tombs at (District Goalpara) Goalpara, tomb of Lt. Cresswell (District Goalpara).	14	13 0 0	

Name of work.	Sanctioned amount.	Actual expenditure.	Works done.
	Rs.	Es. A. P.	
Lower Assam Division—*concld.*			
(13) Restoring and repairing the temple of Hayagriva at Hajo (District Kamrup).	4,781	1,437 0 0	In progress.
Upper Assam Division.			
(14) Remains at Bhishmaknagar and copper temple near Sadiya (District Lakhimpur).	550	550 0 0	Represents cost of Archæological visit by Dr. Bloch.
(15) Ahom Raja's Palace, Garhgaon, near Nazira (District Sibsagar).	318	253 0 0	Jungle grown over and around the buildings was cleared.
(16) Old Assamese buildings— (i) Temple at Jaisagar (ii) Ditto at Gaurisagar (iii) Ranghur Ruins at Gaurisagar.	200	179 0 0	Jungle grown over and around the buildings was cleared.
Surma Valley Division.			
(17) Jungle clearing and petty excavations necessary for inspecting ancient remains in the Cachar District.	200	22 0 0	
Total ...	19,862	10,555 5 5	

APPENDIX B.

List of Photographs taken in 1905-1906.

The number runs in continuation of the list of the preceding year. The negatives are all full plates.

Serial No.	District.	Locality.	Subject.
1	2	3	
382	24-Parganas. ...	Kanchrapara ...	Mosque at Mullick Bagh, front view.
383	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto Ditto from south-east.
384	Burdwan ...	Burdwan ...	Dargah of Bahram Sakka.
385	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Do. Tomb of Kutbuddin.
386	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Do. do. of Sher Afgan Khan.
387	Birbhum ...	Suri ...	Ras Mancha.
388	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Ditto, detail of front.
389	Gaya ...	Budh Gaya ...	Buddhist Sanskrit inscription in Mahant's Court.
390	Do. ...	Ditto ...	Burmese inscription in Mahant's Court.
391	Patna ...	Rajgir ...	Maniyar Math, general view.
392	Do. ...	Do. ...	Ditto another view.
393	Do. ...	Do. ...	Ditto showing ancient temple beneath.
394	Do. ...	Do. ...	Ditto another view.
395	Do. ...	Do. ...	Ditto ditto
396	Do. ...	Do. ...	Ditto ancient temple and surrounding structure.
397	Do. ...	Do. ...	Ditto another view.
398	Do. ...	Do. ...	Ditto ditto
399	Do. ...	Do. ...	Ditto ditto
400	Do. ...	Do. ...	Ditto stucco figures on base of ancient temple.
401	Do. ...	Do. ...	Ditto ditto of female serpent deity on base of ancient temple.
402	Do. ...	Do. ...	Ditto stucco figure of Siva on base of ancient temple.
403	Do. ...	Do. ...	Stone platform on northern side of Vipula Hill.
404	Do. ...	Do. ...	Ditto another view.
405	Do. ...	Do. ...	Ditto continuation of No. 403.
406	Do. ...	Do. ...	Bases of small stupas in ancient mound south of new city.
407 408 409 410	Do. ...	Do. ...	Excavation inside the Fort of the new city.
411	Do. ...	Do. ...	Front of Sonbhandar cave.
412	Do. ...	Do. ...	Ditto Ditto another view.
413	Do. ...	Do. ...	Ancient stone platform on top of Vaibhara Hill.
414	Do. ...	Do. ...	View on top of Gridhrakuta Hill
415	Do. ...	Do. ...	Ditto Ditto another view.
416	Do. ...	Do. ...	Ditto Ditto Ditto
417 418 419 420	Do. ...	Do. ...	Panorama of Gridhrakuta Hill.
421	Do. ...	Do. ...	View of rampart from west of new Fort.

APPENDIX C.

List of Drawings prepared during field-season, 1905-1906

FINISHED DURING 1905.

(45) Map of Lauriya, showing position of certain mounds and Nandangarh.

PLOTTED DRAWING-FIELD SEASON 1905-1906.

(46) Map of Rajgir.
(47) Plan of excavation.
(48) Ditto
(49) Ditto
(50) Ditto
(51) Ditto
(52) Ditto
(53) Ditto
(54) Plan and section of Maniyar Math.
(55) Plan of stone platform on northern side of Vipula Hill.

PART II.

NOTES ON PLACES VISITED

IN

1905-1906.

DISTRICT BURDWAN.

1. *Tomb of Bahram Sakka.*—My visit to this famous dargah was in connection with a petition sent to the Commissioner of Burdwan, asking Government for a grant towards its repairs. It is entirely out of question to repair the whole area of the dargah, which is at present very untidy, owing to continuous neglect. I suggested that only that portion which is enclosed by an inner wall should be repaired. The principal damage done to it, is that the north-western part of the abutment wall near the tank has fallen down, while the south-eastern part of the enclosure wall is broken. The cement floor also requires some attention. I further suggested that the ugly-looking modern tombstones marking the sites of the graves of Kutbuddin and Sher Afgan Khan should be replaced by masonry tombs, according to the Muhammedan fashion with marble tablets attached, similar to those on the tombs of Siraj-ud-daulah and Ali Verdi-Khan at Murshidabad. The present tombstones would fit into an English cemetery and are quite out of keeping inside a Muhammedan graveyard.

2. *Mosque at Rasulpur.*—I was requested to inspect this mosque owing to a petition sent to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal by Syed Neamutaly of Cuttack for pecuniary help towards its repairs. I could not recommend this, as no interest whatever attaches to this building. It is an ordinary mosque of the late style of Muhammedan architecture in Bengal built by Fazl Ahmad in 1194 Hijri Era (=1779 A. D.) Fazl Ahmad died one year before the mosque was built and his tomb is to the north-east, inside a square enclosure of brick walls. I was told that a Kadam Rasul and a copy of the Koran written by Ali Verdi-Khan used to be kept inside the mosque, but that both these relics were sold by a previous mutwalli of the mosque.

DISTRICT BIRBHUM.

3. *Carved brick temple at Suri.*—The existence of this temple was brought to the notice of Government by Mr. C. H. Walsh, I. C. S., Commissioner of the Burdwan Division. It stands inside the modern town of Suri and goes by the name of Ras Mancha. The carvings over the entrance are among the best specimens of this kind in Bengal. They represent almost all the members of the Bengali Pantheon. As the temple is such a fine little specimen of this latest class of temple architecture in Bengal, I recommended its repairs and permanent up-keep to Government.

DISTRICT NADDIA.

4. *Mosque at Mullick Bagh.*—My visit to this mosque was also due to a local petition for Government aid towards its repairs. It is a late building of the beginning of the 18th century and of purely local interest. Although it has suffered from long neglect, there is scarcely any reason why Government should come to the assistance of the owners, who in their petition stated that they were able to raise Rs. 1,500 by subscription for repairing the mosque. This sum would certainly go a long way towards its up-keep, if judiciously applied. The mosque is only attended on Fridays by people offering prayers and killing fowls at the tomb of a nameless saint, east of the mosque. The inscription slab over the central door is lost. I was told by the people that some local zamindar had taken it away, as it mentioned a large grant of land, which, as they seemed to believe, originally had been given to the mosque, but afterwards misappropriated by the zamindar. Another basalt slab lies in front of the mosque. I was told that when a certain person once tried to lift it up, in order to take it away, blood came out of his mouth.

DISTRICT MURSHIDABAD.

5. *Old guns at Berhampore.*—It had been suggested that these guns might be used to mark the sites of the batteries on the battle-field of Plassey, and I was asked to advise on this matter. There are altogether about 22 guns of various sizes. It is impossible to say exactly to what time they belong. One had the monogram of the Dutch East India Company stamped upon it. But whether or not they have been taken away from the army of Siraj-ud-Daulah, they certainly might be made use of for the purpose suggested.

6. *Temples at Baranagar.*—The temples are on the western side of the river, opposite Jeaganj and north of Azimganj. Five of them are large and three small, all containing lingas. Four of the larger temples are placed on the four sides of what appears to have been an old shallow, square tank, which is now dry. Each of them has the shape of a Bengali hut. The group is called Jor Bangla and is in excellent preservation. Only the terrace upon which the temples stand has been cracked in places. The fifth large temple is octagonal with a gallery all around it. The octagonal roof is pointed and rises out of a double lotus flower. This temple is called Bhabanishwara. I found its interior in a very filthy condition owing to bats and pigeons inhabiting it. It struck me as rather peculiar that Government aid was solicited for the protection of a sacred building to which its owners withheld even the ordinary duty of cleanliness. The preservation of this temple is not so bad on the whole. What is required is merely to keep down the vegetation on the roof and to fill up the cracks in the roofs with cement. As this cannot be a very costly matter, I suggested that the sebaits should be called upon to have this done. I did not think there was any reason why Government should undertake these repairs as the temple is of no special archæological interest. Likewise the three small temples of the same shape as that of the Bhabanishwara appeared to me of no special interest.

DISTRICT PURI

7. *Caves at Khandagiri and Asoka inscription at Dhauli.*—My visit to these caves was made in order to prepare an accurate detailed survey of them, of which I hope to make use later on in a separate publication. I also brought away with me two paper impressions of the famous Hathigumpha Inscription of Kharavela, which still deserves to be re-edited. It seems to me very doubtful whether all those caves were originally intended as places of retreat for ascetics of the Jaina or any other order, although they certainly have been made use of as such. It struck me that possibly the place originally may have formed one of those "pleasure gardens outside the city" (nagara-bāhiruyānap which Kharavela mentions in his inscription. His capital probably lay somewhere near the present city of Bhubaneshwar, or perhaps closer to the sea, as it is said to have been destroyed by a tidal wave, and the small Khandagiri Hill, which is the nearest hill towards the west, would have afforded a pleasant retreat to the king when out hunting in the western mountains. At the same time it cannot surprise us to find that religious mendicants also were allowed to make use of a royal park like this and that some of the caves were specially allotted to them. Similar instances are too well known to require special mention. On the other hand, such carvings as seen in the upper verandah of the Rani-ka-naur, representing among other scenes a royal person engaged on hunting and the rape of a female scarcely might be expected in a monastic building of the Jainas. As a curiosity, I may mention that the natives at present explain those scenes as the rape of Sita and as Rama following the fabulous deer or *maya mriga.*

The shade over the Asoka inscription on the Dhauli Hill suffers from the same fault as that erected a few years ago over the Hathigumpha inscription, it is unnecessarily heavy and looks rather clumsy. Besides, a great portion of the carved elephant over the inscription is now obstructed from view, if one stands down below. It is a matter of only too common occurrence in India that now, since Government has repaired the inscription, the natives have begun worshipping the elephant over it. I found the *trisul* painted in vermillion on the elephant's forehead. The famous Navagraha stone of Konarak, likewise, became an object of religious worship only after Government had undertaken to remove it to the Indian Museum, and I have been told that the quarrel between the Hindus and Buddhists as to the proprietary right over the shrine at Budh Gaya is not older than the time of the restoration of the temple by Government.

8. *Black Pagoda at Konarak.*—The removal of loose stones from the heap west of the *mandapa* has disclosed a portion of the north-eastern corner of the plinth upon which the tower stands. This contains another wheel and carvings similar to those on the plinth of the *mandapa.* The Assistant Engineer in charge

of the repairs was instructed to begin removing the broken stones from the top, in order to avoid any damage that might occur to the standing portion of the spire. The carvings along the plinth of the spire again are of the same class as those on the walls of the *mandapa*. In fact, the walls of this temple seem to have been covered with the profusest illustration in stone of the Kamasutra that can be imagined. Whether this was done in order to drive away evil influences or to attract the people, I am unable to say. At present one hears both explanations in regard to similar carvings on temple walls, and very likely both are true.

The casuarina trees, which have been planted along the western and southern sides of the temple court to keep out the strong drift of sand have grown up very well and it is hoped that they will afford a real and permanent protection, as otherwise the clearing of the temple court will have to go on for times eternal.

DISTRICT GAYA.

9. *Budh Gaya.*—I visited this temple twice during the last year partly to arrange with the overseer in charge for the re-erection of the ancient railing pillars, which the Mahant after all has consented to return, and partly to inspect two Buddhist images, which Captain O'Connor had selected for presentation to the Tashi Lama. My first visit also happened to coincide with the arrival of this dignitary, when Budh Gaya had adopted an appearance of gaiety such as probably has not been enjoyed by this venerable old place for many years past. To me this meant that I could not stay on in the Inspection Bungalow, which had been reserved for the Tashi Lama's party. In regard to the position of the railing pillars, there is no record of the places which they occupied originally, and very likely some of them have been shifted about a good deal during the successive alterations of the temple. I accordingly proposed to use them for filling up the vacant spaces of the railing as it now stands, only those which have been corner pillars should be put in the same position again. Written instructions were left by me with the overseer as to the arrangement to be adopted. But although most of the pillars were lying loose in the Mahant's Court, I doubt whether he will actually consent to their removal. In any case he does not seem to like the idea of Government putting up those pillars, as he is afraid this might mean to him the loss of his proprietary right over the temple, and for this reason he wants to bear the cost of their removal and re-erection himself. I have been told that when they began taking out those pillars from the Mahant's Court, one of the Mahant's *chelas* or disciples died and that this accident nearly would have brought the work to a stop at once, as it was, of course, brought in connection with the shifting of the pillars.

The two images selected by Captain O'Connor for presentation to the Tashi Lama practically were the only two decent statues kept inside the sculpture shed, which besides contains only very unimportant carvings, which would have been unfit for presentation. As an enormous mass of similar statues exists in Budh Gaya as well as in many other places, I could not see any objection to giving away those two statues, which practically are nothing but duplicates of very common types.

DISTRICT PATNA.

10. *Excavations at Rajgir.*—The work at this place consisted in trial excavations at various sites and in an accurate survey of the large area of this important ancient historical place. Mr. J. H. Marshall, the Director-General of Archæology, was staying in Rajgir up to the beginning of March, when I was left in sole charge of the work. For the purpose of surveying the mountain ranges all around the old city, the services of Mr. J. Wilson, a retired Survey officer, were made available. As a detailed illustrated account of the work will appear later on in the Archæological Annual Report, it will be sufficient to give only a few outlines here.

The so-called 'new-city,' north of the 'mountain-girt' old city, yielded a large medley of remains of secular buildings, partly of bricks, partly of irregular thin flakes of stone. It is very unlikely that the latter mark an older stratum, as they have been found employed with bricks in one and the same

building, and as exactly the same kind of stones is still used as building materials in all the villages around Rajgir, as far as Bihar, where a large supply is easily available. Unfortunately no small antiquities were found among those ruins, and the few coins that turned up were all copper coins of the Muhammedan time. The thick stone walls with round bastions all around the city were followed in certain places down to a considerable depth, when the stones became smaller and smaller, ending at last in a layer of rubble. It is remarkable to find plaster used to cover the intervals between the stones. This certainly looks modern, but it is impossible to say how long the place was inhabited, and when the city was moved further to the north of the present village of Rajgir.

Two stupa-like mounds west of New Rajgir yielded a number of small clay stupas of the later period of Buddhism in India; these, when opened, invariably contained two clay tablets each with the Buddhist creed stamped on it. Immediately east of those mounds were found a great number of bases of small brick-stupas covered with plaster and two small square tanks, laid out with bricks and cement. No deposits of any kind were found inside the small brick stupas, but their existence certainly proves that the place once was a Buddhist sanctuary, although no reference to it seems to have been made by the Chinese pilgrims.

Eight similar bases of small brick stupas were found in the mound south-east of the new city, where one is inclined to locate the *Karanda-venu-vana* of Buddhist tradition, but these small stupa bases likewise did not contain any deposits. A large square platform at the base of the northern slope of Mount Vipula, which probably is the place shown to Hiuen Thsang as the locality of the first Buddhist synod, did not reveal any finds to speak of.

The 'old city' enclosed by the five hills shows a great number of remains of ancient stone walls, similar to those found around the 'new city.' When followed up these walls did not go deeper than a few feet and for this reason can only have been the foundations of buildings, but whether the buildings consisted of wood or brick it is impossible to say. In one place, the inscribed base of a Buddhist image had been built into the bottom of a drain in the walls of a rough square building, which, I understand, now serves as a cow-pen in the rains for the great number of cattle grazing there. The inscription is in the characters of the Kushana period or the 1st and 2nd century A. D., and the stone looks like the red sandstone from the Fatehpur-Sikri quarries, which, at that time, used to be employed by the sculptors at Muttra near Agra. We know that in those days there was a flourishing school of sculptors at Muttra or Mathura, as the name ought to be spelt, and it is very likely that the image, to which this pedestal belongs, was made at Muttra and brought down as far east as Rajgir, a distance of several hundred miles.

The most interesting discovery in the old city was made in a mound occupying about the centre of the valley. On the top of it stands a small brick temple called *Maniyar Math*, which appeared to have come out of use as a place of worship, as I never observed any one of the numerous Jain pilgrims frequenting Rajgir going up there; neither did it contain any image. When I was carrying trial trenches through the northern and eastern section of this mound, which appeared to contain the ruins of some old building, I found that this modern temple stands upon an older circular brick structure, the exact nature of which it was impossible to determine at first. Continuing the eastern trench in order to clear up this point I found at a depth of several feet three well-preserved stucco figures, about two feet high, representing a *linga* covered with a garland of flowers, an image of *Ganesa* and of a *Nagini* or female snake deity. The figures looked almost fresh and no damage had been done to them. Their style pointed to an early date, about the 4th or 5th century A. D., but, of course, in similar cases it is always safer to allow a certain limit both up and down. As further images of serpent deities and one of *Siva* dancing turned up along the plinth of this circular brick structure, it seemed essential to clear the entire building, which could not be done without dismantling the modern *Maniyar Math* on the top of the mound. I decided to do this on my own responsibility, as the *Math* did not seem to be used as a place of worship. For neither was there any image placed inside

nor had I ever observed any single person out of several hundreds of Jain pilgrims to Rajgir going up there. It appears, however, that after I had done so, most extravagant rumours spread to Calcutta about my alleged iconoclastic doings, which led Rai Badri Das Mukim Bahadur, the well-known Calcutta jeweller and owner of most of the shrines at Rajgir, to send one of his agents down to see what was really going on. I was very much pleased to find that this gentleman at once understood that I was really conferring a benefit upon his community by bringing to light one of their old sacred edifices, which had been hidden for centuries. I must confess that doubtless the temple with figures of *Siva* and *Ganesa* around it had nothing to do with the Jains originally, but this fact did not appear to concern them very much, as I was told that they had known of the existence of such a building from their own *Shastras* long ago. To me it was interesting to have found a temple, which evidently had some connection with snake-worship in the beginning of our era. I am not aware of the existence of a similar building of the same date, although it is common to find tanks dedicated to a certain snake-deity, which is usually believed to inhabit their waters.

Before going away, I left instructions with Babu Sreegopal Bose, the Sub-overseer in charge of the work, for the protection of the stucco figures around the temple, who reported that the work had been finished before the end of May. It was my intention to go to Rajgir during the latter half of the rains in order to see how the work had been done, but unfortunately my illness prevented me from doing so.

The interior of the temple was found to be quite empty, only at a certain depth a great number of *chiraghs* turned up, which had been thrown away by pious worshippers several centuries ago.

NOTES BY MR. G. R. BHANDARKAR.

District Backergunge.

11. *Bibichini and Kasba Mosques.*—*Bibichini Mosque* :—Bibichini is a village about three miles from Niyamati and is divided into two distinct localities, Hindu and Muhammadan. To the west of the Hindu, and north of the Muhammadan locality, is a mosque situated on an artificial mound of considerable height and composed of bricks of the same size as those employed in the building itself. The mosque is a small plain brick vaulted building with no sort of architectural decoration. It is also not held in veneration locally and is used as a cattle-shed by the villagers. The building is past all repairs and it does not seem desirable to conserve it.

Kasba Mosque :—This mosque is near the village of Kasba about two miles from Gournadi also called Palordi. It is said to have been built by one Sabi Khan, Subah of Bengal. It is an oblong brick building of three aisles divided by two rows of pillars, about the middle, each consisting of two. It has three arched openings in front and one in each side wall. The pillars inside are of stone and excepting the stone capitals of pilasters in the interior, the whole building is composed of bricks. The pillars are plain and are not of the same style. The pair near the prayer niches is much smaller in circumference than those near the front, and with regard to the first pair, the local belief is that they were formerly of the same dimensions as those of the other two, but are every day becoming thinner and thinner. The ceiling is broken up into nine vaults, three for each aisle with nine corresponding domes, I am told, on the roof, but now all concealed in the dense jungle with which it is overgrown. Just above the arched openings in front is some brick ornamentation in relief, and even the central arch is an oblong space wherein the inscription stone was originally fixed. The inscription stone cannot now be traced. On the north-east corner of the building, there is still left a tower more or less dilapidated, and the rest at the other three corners have all fallen. The mosque is held in veneration both by Muhammadans and Hindus who come to offer worship in order to be cured of diseases or to obtain offspring. It is crowded with Muhammadan worshippers on the Id and Bakrid days.

I do not think the monument to be of such importance as to require any restoration, but some of the general measures may be adopted for preventing

further delay and disintegration. The interior should be cleared of all débris. All trees and shrubs should be eradicated as far as possible without doing any damage to the masonry. The roof should be made water-tight. All cracks should be filled in and the walls strengthened.

The Masjid is in the custody of Kazi Golam Mustafa *alias* Madu Kazi who enjoys certain pieces of land rent-free, I am told for the up-keep of the mosque and for keeping it in repairs. It should be ascertained, after making an estimate of the repairs, whether he will be able to execute them out of the *Inam* he enjoys.

12. *The temple of Narasimhanatha.*—The temple of Narasinhanatha is in the Padampur Zamindari, and is about 20 miles south-west of Padampur in the Sambalpur district, newly added to Bengal. The nearest village to it is Durgapuli, two miles off, which is a mere collection of huts. The temple is situated at the foot of a hill and is surrounded on all sides by one of the thickest jungles of the Central Provinces. A streamlet gurgles close by, the water of which is regarded as sacred, and at five places accumulates itself into five pools called *kuṇḍas*. The trees and shrubs with which the hill is overgrown are so tall and numerous that even at midday the light that filters through their foliage is hardly stronger or brighter than that of the morning. Higher up on the hill towards the south-east near the first *kuṇḍa* are four colossal figures rudely carved out of the rock. They are shown as the first four of the five Pandava brothers. Close beside the northern door of the temple is another huge rude figure carved out of the rock, which is pointed out as Sahadeva, the remaining fifth Pandava brother. Near him is another colossal figure which is of Ganapati. Amongst the broken sculptures lying loose close by may be noticed a nicely chiselled pedestal with seven horses carved in front of it. The image which was originally set up on it was doubtless that of Sûrya.

The temple faces the east and consists of a shrine and a *sabhâmaṇḍapa* or hall. In front of the temple on the other side of the streamlet is a Garuda *stambha* with a small niche at the top, where a lamp is lighted during the Diwali festival. It is said to have been erected, but seven years ago. The walls of the *sabhâmaṇḍapa*, as they are at present, are unquestionably re-built, The hall had originally three doorways, facing the east, the north and the south, but now only the first two remain, the third being blocked up, thus giving an ugly and unsymmetrical shape to the side wall. The remaining door-frames are of stone of a dark colour and are deeply and beautifully carved. That on the north has Gajalakshmī occupying the post of honour on the lintel. Lakshmī sits on a padmâsana or lotus throne with her right leg resting on the throne, and her left hanging loose and touching a stool down below. On each side of her is a *chauri* bearer and upon the latter are two elephants standing on lotuses and holding in their trunks water-pitchers. The door-frame has three mouldings, the central one mostly carved with pairs of musicians and the other two with floral ornamentation. It holds in relief near the bottom on its proper right Siva in one compartment and Gangâ on *makara* or crocodile in the other, and on its proper left, Siva again in one compartment, and Yamunâ on kûrma or tortoise in the other. The door frame facing the east is almost exactly like this, but the figures at the bottom are not Siva and Yamunâ or Gangâ, but a dvârapâl or door-keeper and a female *chauri* bearer. In the wall above this doorway are *navagrahas* or the nine planets, which are generally sculptured over the entrances of the *sabhâmaṇḍapa* on the shrine to ward off the influence of the evil spirits. Near this door-frame on its proper left is a standing image of a warrior with his hands folded and with a sword held close to the breast by the left hand. Judging from analogous instances, this seems to have been a figure of the personage who was principally connected with either the construction or the restoration of the temple. The roof of the *sabhâmaṇḍapa* is supported by the walls and four columns of stone of a reddish colour and nicely sculptured. In the walls outside have been stuck up some sculptures which, in all likelihood, formed part of the original exterior of the wall.

On the lintel of the shrine doorway is again a figure of Gajalakshmi, but here Lakshmi is seated cross-legged. The jambs near the bottom contain images of Jaya and Vijaya in niches elegantly carved. In other respects the shrine door-frame is plain and devoid of all ornamentation. There are only three

—the principal—niches on the exterior of the shrine. That facing the north has an image of Trivikrama with four hands, one broken off and the other three bearing a conch, a discus and a mace. Near his foot on one side is Lakshmī and on the other are three figures, viz. of Vâmana, Bali and his minister. In the back niche facing the west is Narasiṃha, and in that facing the south Varâha.

Inside the shrine is a very small image of what is called by the people there Mârjâra-kisare, a form of Vishnu with the head of a cat and the body of a lion. It is thickly swathed in clothes, and has a brass nose, eyes and mouth. A long description of the genesis of this incarnation of Vishnu has been set forth in a local Mâhâtmya composed in Uriyâ, but a brief account will not here be out of place. A certain Rishi was performing religious austerities on the banks of the Godâvarî. He had a daughter of the name of Mâtalî. Râvana, the demon king of Ceylon, once came hither and was smitten with her beauty. He ravished her, and thereupon the Rishi cursed her and forthwith quitted the place. She fell into a swoon, and was thrown in this condition into the river by Râvana. But Godâvârî protected her, and she was brought back safely to the bank. When she regained her consciousness, she began to search after her father. Finding her search to be fruitless she took to weeping. Her wailings were heard by Mûshaka (mouse) the vehicle of Ganapati, who came up to her. He promised to restore her to her father on condition of enjoying her; and thus from Râvana and Mûshaka was born of her a demon called Mûshakadatta. When the latter grew up, he ate his mother up. Thereafter he performed religious austerities, which propitiated Siva. The god conferred on him the boon that he would have cause for fear from none but Narasiṃha of the *Satyayuga*. The demon thus became a source of trouble to the gods. The gods went to Ramchandra and prayed for mercy. Ramchandra assumed the form of Narasiṃha and came within the sight of Mûshakadatta. The latter fled in fear, and was pursued by Narasiṃha. The demon came to the mountain called Gandhagiri where the temple stands, and besought him to grant him refuge. This was granted, and the demon assumed the form of a mouse and entered the mountain. Narasiṃha had, therefore, to become a cat and continued the pursuit. But Gandhagiri interceded, and so did the gods also who requested Narasiṃha to establish himself there in that feline form and devour Mûshakadatta when he would come out.

The *sabhâmaṇḍapa* was white-washed and the exterior of the shrine was being white-washed when I was there. Every three years I am told the temple is so white-washed. In the wall of the hall facing the south was set up, rather a little too much into the wall, a slab of blackstone with an inscription in Uriyâ character and Uriyâ language engraved thereon.

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